



American Organization
of Nurse Executives

Executive Office
800 10th St, NW
Two City Center, Ste. 400
Washington, DC 20001
Phone 202.626.2240

June 5, 2018

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee
221 Dirksen Office building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

The American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) thanks you for your leadership in introducing twenty-two bipartisan bills to address the opioid crisis in Medicare, Medicaid and human services programs. AONE strongly supports S. 2891, Fighting the Opioid Epidemic with Sunshine, which would combat fraud against the Medicare program and would facilitate more accurate quality and efficiency measurement of the use of opioid addiction treatment by advanced practice nurses and physician assistants.

As the national organization of the 9,700 nurse leaders who manage and provide patient care in all settings across the health care continuum, we know firsthand the devastation and human suffering caused by the opioid epidemic in this country.

In light of the nation's opioid epidemic, these disclosures have taken on a new importance. Recent news reports found nurse practitioners were among the top prescribers for some drugs, including opioids. Other news reports found some of these health care providers were charged with taking industry kickbacks related to opioid prescribing. S. 2891 would require the identification of the specific provider of the billed service, leading to an accurate accounting of billing and claims data. In addition to combating fraud, this data would contribute to the growing body of evidence of the lifesaving and cost-effective contributions of advanced practice nurses and physician assistants in the battle against opioid addiction.

We urge you to support S. 2891. We sincerely appreciate your efforts on this critical issue. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jo Ann Webb at 202-626-2321 or jwebb@aha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Dent".

Bob Dent
President, AONE

www.aone.org

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